

# **FEDERAL QUALIFICATION PROCESS**

## **Summary of Recent Changes in Federal Qualification Process**

**Prepared by:  
Secretary of State Elections Division  
April 14, 2005**

## Table of Contents

I.	Introduction .....	3
II.	Update to 2002 Federal Qualification Standards .....	3
III.	Change in Terminology in Federal Testing Process .....	3
IV.	Public Comment .....	3

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this ongoing report is to keep the Voting Systems and Procedures Panel apprised about changes occurring in the federal voting system qualification process that may related to the state certification process.

This report focuses on two items of note:

1. Progress on updating the existing 2002 federal standards
2. A change in terminology relating to voting system testing

## **II. UPDATE TO 2002 FEDERAL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS**

The Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) of the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) has been working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to update the current 2002 voting system standards.

There work is not focused on replacing those standards, but rather augmenting and amending them to correct identified gaps and errors in the existing standards. Some of the items the new standards are expected to address are:

1. Requirements for Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail systems
2. Ensuring that installed software is the tested software
3. Accessibility and usability requirements based on current technology
4. Use of wireless devices
5. New glossary of terms

Staff from the Secretary of State's Office have been working with representatives from NIST on some of these items, particularly the paper trail standards.

The initial TGDC recommendations for voting system guidelines will be forwarded to the EAC in mid April. A second round will be completed in August 2005. A third round will be completed in November 2005. The April version of recommendations will be called Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, Version One.

### **III. CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY IN FEDERAL TESTING PROCESS**

The labs that conduct the federal testing process, previously known at Independent Testing Authorities (ITA) will now be known as Voting System Testing Laboratories (VSTL). Secretary of State reports will now reflect this new terminology.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.